



**FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EFAP)
CLOSEOUT REPORT FOR SFY 2013
Published November 2013**

EFAP Food Bank/Food Pantry Program

The requests for emergency food in Washington for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) ending June 30, 2013 decreased slightly for the first time in five years. The number of visits (new plus returning clients) in SFY13 was 8.35 million, a small 1.31% reduction from the 8.46 million the previous year. It is interesting to note that while the number of new clients, defined as the first time someone visits a food pantry in the fiscal year, went down by more than 5.6%, from 1.37 million in 2012 to 1.29 million in 2013, the number of returning visits made by clients in the fiscal year decreased by only .5%, from 7.10 million to 7.06 million. This has resulted in the average number of visits per person per year growing to nearly 6.5 compared to 6.2 in 2012, indicating families still visiting food pantries need help more often.

The percentage of visits by age group has remained fairly consistent over the last decade, fluctuating up or down 2% for any age category. 2013's percentages were:

- Children 0-18: 35% of total visits = 2,930,952
- Adults 19-54: 46% of total visits = 3,817,313
- Adults 55 and older: 19% of total visits = 1,605,391

The pounds of food distributed by food pantries to families decreased slightly in 2013 by 420,000 to 132.3 million pounds compared to last year. However, the number of visits to food pantries went down by a larger percentage than the pounds of food, resulting in the average pounds of food a client received with each visit increasing from 15.68 pounds to 15.84 pounds.

The amount of match the emergency food system was able to garner in 2013 is staggering—over \$287 million. This includes over \$232 million in additional food valued at \$1.66 per pound and over \$23 million in volunteer labor valued at \$10/hour as well as \$28 million in other funding and over \$2 million in other donated services such as transportation by volunteers. This is an increase of \$21.7 million in total match over the previous year.

Though it is encouraging to note that not as many families sought help from food pantries in 2013, it is interesting to compare the 2013 data with pre-economic downturn 2007 data:

- **Visits** (new + returning): In SFY07 = 5.99 million. In SFY13 = 8.35 million. A 39% increase.
- **New clients** (the number of people who used food pantries in the year): In SFY07 = 1.20 million. In SFY13 = 1.29 million. A 7.5% increase.
- **Returning clients** (all subsequent visits after the initial visit in a year): In SFY07 = 4.79 million. In SFY13 = 7.06 million. A 47% increase.
- **Total pounds of food distributed to families:** In SFY07 = 91.11 million. In SFY13 = 132.30 million. A 45% increase.
- **Average pounds of food to each person per each visit:** In SFY07 = 15.21 pounds. In SFY13 = 15.84 pounds. A 4% increase.
- **Average number of visits to food pantries per client:** In SFY07 = 5 times. In SFY13 = 6.45 times. A 29% increase.

Tribal Food Voucher Program

The 30 tribes* participating in the voucher program issued vouchers to 8,503 people who averaged a little over two trips to their tribal offices for vouchers, for a total of 19,965 visits (first time receiving a voucher plus subsequent vouchers). This is about 4,100 more than in 2012.

The number of people served with tribal vouchers is usually directly attributable to the amount of EFAP money spent by the tribes. In 2012 tribes spent \$359,340 while in 2013 they spent \$392,958 in EFAP. Tribes are required to match their EFAP funds by 35%. Nine of the 13 tribal contractors limited their match to the 35% and just four tribal contractors contributed more than the 35% match. Four tribal contractors put matching dollars into the vouchers themselves and the rest used their match to exclusively cover their administrative and program operational costs.

The percentages of visits by age group in SFY13 were:

Ages 0-18: 37.6% = 7,503

Ages 19-54: 48.3% = 9,653

Ages 55+: 14.1% = 2,809

* 19 tribes apply under two tribal nonprofit agencies, thereby totaling 13 tribal contractors.

**Washington State Department of Agriculture, Food Assistance Programs
Comparison of Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) Closeout Reports
Yearly Data for Food Pantries, State Fiscal Years 2003-2013 (SFY = July 1-June 30)**

	SFY03	SFY04	SFY05	SFY06	SFY07	SFY08	SFY09	SFY10	SFY11	SFY12	SFY13
Total Client Visits (New and Returning)	6,038,850	6,373,017	6,299,515	6,164,962	5,988,735	6,262,900	7,300,476	7,803,414	7,980,242	8,469,360	8,353,656
New Clients	1,127,385	1,251,719	1,233,886	1,225,020	1,198,026	1,252,800	1,461,116	1,576,894	1,433,580	1,371,661	1,294,363
Returning Clients	4,911,465	5,121,298	5,065,629	4,939,942	4,790,709	5,010,100	5,839,360	6,226,520	6,546,662	7,097,699	7,059,293
Total New Families Served	379,362	405,485	414,697	426,195	421,786	431,830	499,918	546,431	505,392	488,207	458,868
Average # of Visits Per Client per Year (Visits/New Clients)	5.36	5.09	5.11	5.03	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.95	5.57	6.17	6.45
Pounds of Food Distributed	80,918,140	87,912,414	90,868,168	91,194,079	91,112,694	97,622,472	113,952,122	126,781,520	128,951,893	132,724,168	132,303,513
Average # of lbs of Food/Client Visit/Yr (lbs/client visits)	13.40	13.80	14.43	14.80	15.21	15.59	15.61	16.25	16.16	15.68	15.84

Updated: 11/5/13